



Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

— Making a positive difference through education and service —

September 17, 2008

Dear School Administrator:

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education is pleased to announce the release of the 2008-2009 enhancements to www.MissouriConnections.org. Sponsored by DESE since 2003, the statewide system continues to be available free of charge to all Missouri middle school and high school students, their parents, counselors and educators.

Missouri Connections can help students (grades 6-14) explore the 16 Career Clusters, take valuable assessments, research postsecondary options, and connect their education with their future. The comprehensive system combines the successful platform of the Kuder® Career Planning System with Missouri-specific education information, resources and tools. An introductory flyer is located at http://dese.mo.gov/divcareered/documents/MC_flyer.pdf.

Key features include:

- Interactive exploration tool on Missouri's career paths, clusters and pathways
- Reliable research-based career assessments on interests, skills and work values
- Planning timeline of suggested sequences for education and career planning events
- Educational planner to develop Personal Plans of Study of coursework and postsecondary plans
- Video Room with videos introducing the 16 Career Clusters
- Links to Missouri-specific information, such as "Hot Careers" in Missouri, occupational profiles, family wage calculator, Missouri college admissions criteria, and college search tools
- Parental resources to get parents and family members involved in the career planning process
- Administrative database management system for educators to manage and monitor individual system progress and generate real-time reports for accountability requirements

Missouri Connections benefits from the collaboration with Kuder®, as well as with the Departments of Economic Development and Higher Education and many others, to bring all Missourians the opportunity to find and prepare for the right career.

Bringing *Missouri Connections* to your students has never been easier. Each Missouri school serving students grades 6-14 is eligible for the free 2008-2009 batch codes. Your school counselors can access your school's assigned batch code by logging into the administrative area or contacting Kuder Customer Support at (877) 999-6227 or by e-mail at support@kuder.com. (Incidentally, student and educator user names and passwords remain the same and are not affected year-to-year.)

For questions and to schedule a training session at your school, please contact Renee Bales, Missouri field trainer, at (515) 326-1725 or by e-mail at balesr@kuder.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Quinn".

Tom Quinn
Assistant Commissioner
Division of Career Education